

In the meantime, our taxpayers get the shaft—they are left holding the bag—this time for a wasteful Government in Mexico, whose economy has been ruined by years of socialism.

We probably cannot stop this now, but we would if we were truly listening to the citizens we are supposed to be representing.

□ 2050

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT THREATENS SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise again tonight to discuss some of the effects of the Personal Responsibility Act on the nutrition programs, specifically the senior citizens nutrition programs.

Yesterday, during a hearing on the Personal Responsibility Act in the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, of which I am a member, there were six witnesses, five representing local community groups, and all were against title V of the bill which deals with all our Federal nutrition programs. Title V repeals every Federal nutrition program and then block-grants the funds after severe cuts. Under this repeal of our nutrition programs, the State of Texas would lose over \$1 billion in 1996 alone.

One member of the committee questioned the constitutional basis for providing nutrition and actually said it is not a Federal responsibility, and he quoted the Constitution.

Well, we all may need to reread our Constitution because where I see it in the Preamble, it says to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare, and that is included in nutrition.

If the Republicans are holding the defense budget sacred and even increasing it because it is protected under the Constitution, at the very minimum nutrition programs should also be protected from these draconian budget cuts.

After November 8 of last year, many people called for Congress to become result-oriented. The PRA, or the Personal Responsibility Act, will result in 800 seniors going hungry every day in the city of Houston.

I hope and I pray that the PRA, the Personal Responsibility Act, was not designed to deny senior citizens their Meals on Wheels but that will surely be the result.

Let me repeat. If the PRA is passed in its current form, there will be over 800 hungry seniors in or around the district that I represent in Houston, TX. Not only will seniors go hungry, but on page 74 of the PRA, it requires seniors under the age of 63 and not disabled to work for their food.

The Older Americans Act allows any senior over 60 years of age and their spouse, regardless of age, to receive one meal a day. Would this Personal Responsibility Act repeal that law? I believe so.

What we will see, and I will show this sign, is that we will have seniors saying I will work for food, and that sign will be traded in every day with an affidavit from that senior to the State swearing that they will work at least 32 hours a week for that one hot meal. This is ludicrous.

I would hope that the committees, and I serve on one of the committees, will have better judgment than to pass this bill, particularly title V.

Stalin may have done this to the Soviet seniors, but not us. This would mean at least 35 people would be barred from a hot meal at the Magnolia Multi-Purpose Center in Houston, Texas. And simply on the work requirement alone. So between 60 and 63, they have 35 people who today enjoy a hot meal that would have to either carry this sign or turn it in with an affidavit saying they will work.

Should there be budget responsibilities? Of course, yes. Should there be administrative reduction? Yes. Should there be lonely, hungry seniors in the breadbasket of the world? No.

We must take a look at this title V in the Personal Responsibility Act contained in this Contract With America to see that it is a contract on our seniors to remove the nutrition programs.

#### WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

##### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am glad listening to the Democrats that they are finally getting off NEWT GINGRICH and talking substance on the Contract but as usual it is mostly specious emotional arguments hardly based in reality and it would seem incredible to me for somebody to say that the Contract With America is going to mean that 800 senior citizens in his own district would be going hungry.

I find it incredible that the gentleman who is an elected Member of Congress would take such a tactic and one of such stature at that. I hope that in the future we can have a more honest dialog.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I would be glad to yield time, but I have to make a statement on something else. Then if we run out of time, if perhaps someone on your side would yield time, I would like to engage you, because what I would like to talk about is entirely off the subject. But I did feel it was appropriate to react to that which of course is why we are here, to have good substantive debate on subjects.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to talk about, something that happened on the mall outside of the Capitol this morning, and that was a celebration of National Day of Women and Girls in Sports. This was an important event for many reasons. There are so many different activities that go on in Washington that often we say, oh, that's just one more demonstration, so to speak.

Today in high schools, 38 percent of the girls are participating in athletic programs. That is up from 24 percent 10 years ago. But I think the real story is actually in the elementary schools. The young girls are participating in sports. They are flooding the soccer fields. They are on the tee ball and baseball diamond. They are running out on the basketball courts, and all the other traditional boys arenas now have young ladies playing.

Indeed, those of us who are fathers look forward to watching our girls just as much as fathers with sons look forward to watching their boys. I want to emphasize also that this is a national trend. This is not going to be stopped or end at the county recreation level. These young ladies will grow to be women who are athletic and they are going to take the sports with them throughout junior high, high school and college, and hopefully professional.

We will, I believe, 20 years from now go to see women's soccer games and women's basketball games with the same alacrity and the same enthusiasm and the same vigor that we are now seeing men's sports. I think it is important for us as a country to realize that.

I say that one of the best benefits of this is that for those of us who are maybe a little shell-shocked after the Super Bowl wondering who is going to go on strike next, that we are tired of the overgrown, pampered, greedy, self-indulgent millionaire prima donna players and owners who dominate our national pastime. We are sick of it. These striking athletes have built an empire which is collapsing under the weight of their own grandeur.

I think it is time to open up the system, end their monopoly and let the girls on in. I am glad to see it.

##### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas so we can get back to our dialog.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I agree this is why we are here and to talk about the issues. I had not had an opportunity to read the Personal Responsibility Act or deal with it until we had the hearings yesterday.

We had 6 witnesses, 5 of them called by the majority side and 1 of them called by the minority side. Of those 5, and that is what I said, that of those 6 witnesses, 5 of them asked that that be changed, that that PRA or the Personal Responsibility Act that deals with senior citizens nutrition.